



2017 TFG
Conference

Thatching Demonstration

Thomas Gerner & Magnus Frimer-Larsen

Danish Guild of Thatchers / Trillium Dell Timberworks

Denmark

The thatching demonstration will be a natural continuation of the earlier session “Traditional & Modern Thatching,” where the audience will have the chance to ask further questions and, of course, observe the thatching of a small surface.

We will thatch at a slow pace while demonstrating specific aspects of the technique, answering questions and commenting on the process: explaining in which ways the execution affects the durability of the roof; how and why specific bundles of reed may be chosen for a certain part of the roof (long and sturdy reeds for the eaves, for instance); and so on. The aim is the unfolding of the technique rather than thatching a large surface to show the creation of a thatched roof.

The technique we will demonstrate is the screwing technique that became common from the mid-1980s. In this technique, the reed is laid in courses and held down by steel rod, fixed to battens underneath the reed with special thatching screws that have steel wire attached to them.

About the Speakers

Thomas Gerner

Thomas Gerner has been thatching for 18 years, working in Denmark, Holland, and Italy. He is the Chairman of the Danish Thatching Guild. He is also a board member of the International Thatching Society (ITS) and the Office of the Thatched Roof in Denmark.

Magnus Frimer-Larsen

Magnus Frimer-Larsen is a designer at Trillium Dell Timberworks. The son of a Danish reed thatcher, Mr. Frimer-Larsen is keen to present this undying trade, so defining to his native region, and to pose the question: what does it have to do with North American timber framing?